

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 15 are rejected. Claims 3 and 5-8 are objected to and Claims 9-14 are allowed. Claims 16-41 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

Applicant confirms election of Group I [Claims 1-15] of the restriction requirement. Applicant thus agrees to cancel claims 16-41 but reserves the right to prosecute Group II (Claims 16-22) and Group III (Claims 23-41) in [a] subsequent divisional application[s].

Objected to Claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into Claim 1, Claims 2-3 have been cancelled, and thus Claim 1 should now be allowable.

Claims 4-8 and 15 being dependent on Claim 1 should be allowable for at least the same reason Claim 1 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, the applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149 (Pacific Standard Time).


Respectfully submitted,



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*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 13, 2004.*

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